Storage of water for cattle in Sogi reserve, Bellary district.

*204 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the facilities for water that exist in the Sogi reserve, Bellary district, for the cattle for which permits are taken and whether they are adequate;

(*b*) whether there is a bund called 'Gowdan Katti' in the said reserve which, if repaired, would provide sufficient storage of water to last all the year round; and

(*c*) whether any, if so, what steps have been taken for the repair of the said bund?

A.—(*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) The Sogi Reserved Forest is being managed by three panchayats—Sogi, Adivimallanakeri and Nagathibasapuram. The following are the water sources that exist in each of the panchayat areas:—

Sogi Panchayat.—Two cattle-ponds (1) Kempukatti and ( ) Gaudrakatta (referred to in clause (*b*) of the question). The former is a small pond. It was repaired by the panchayat in the year 1929–30 at a cost of Rs. 20. The latter is a fairly big one. Its bund is, however, breached in one place. The repairs necessary to close the breach are estimated to cost Rs. 150. The panchayat is setting apart Rs. 25 every year for carrying out the repairs. When the bund is repaired, the pond is likely to retain water all the year through.

Adivimallanakeri Panchayat.—(1) A jungle stream cross-bunded in the year 1927–28 at a cost of Rs. 40 which now retains water for nearly four months in the year; (2) a cattle pond called 'Laykakatti' repaired during 1929–30 at a cost of Rs. 25. A further sum of Rs. 150 is reported to be necessary to complete the repairs. A condition that a sum of Rs. 20 should be spent every year on repairs to this pond exists in the agreement, and it will be enforced.

Nagathibasapuram Panchayat.—Two cattle-ponds called (1) Hosakeri; (2) Honnappakunta. The first was repaired by the panchayat during 1926–27 at a cost of Rs. 85-15-0. The second has been repaired at a cost of Rs. 120-10-0.

The facilities for drinking water for cattle available in the reserve, are therefore not inadequate; and the panchayats are endeavouring to improve them every year.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"It will be found from the answer that there is a work which is expected to cost about Rs. 150 and the Government directed that Rs. 25 should be set apart every year for carrying out repairs. This means that the whole amount will be wasted if done by stages every year and there is no chance of completing it if it is not done at one stroke?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"It will cost Rs. 150 and so, Rs. 25 is to be set apart for it each year."

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Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"We hear of so many cases where the work done in a particular year is washed away in the next year and I would therefore request the hon. Member to do the work at one stroke."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I do not think it is necessary that Rs. 25 will be spent each year, but Rs. 25 has been set apart for each year until the accumulated sum is Rs. 150."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—"That means that the work has to be postponed for about six years. Will the hon. Member consider the fact that if the people in that place are spared the payment of the rent fixed by Government for a year or two they will carry the work expeditiously? Will the Government be pleased to forego the rent and allow the people to do the work themselves?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I do not think that it is possible for the Government to forego the rent as suggested by the hon. Member; but I will see if arrangements can be made to advance the money."

Irrigation

Supply of water for some villages under the Palar Anicut System.

*205 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the villages of Melpuleri, Moranam, Butheri, Pullavakkam and Asanammapettai in Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot district, come under the Palar Anicut System paying wet assessment; and

(b) whether the channel feeding the supply to the above villages is completely blocked up and never serves the purpose for which it was intended?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not the information, but have called for a report.

Report on the flow of water from the Shevaroy Hills.

*206 Q.—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether he has got the report yet, regarding the flow of water from the Shevaroy Hills through the Vennar river, which was formerly running into Salem through Tirumanimuttar river? (Vide question No. 277 of 10th August 1929.) 11-45 a.m.

A.—Yes. It has been reported that there is no ground for the suggestion that the water of the Tirumanimuttar has been diverted into the Vennar. The rivers and their watersheds run in opposite directions.

Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur :—"May I know whether the report contains mention of the slipping of a big boulder on the water course from the Shevaroy Hills?"

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I point out there is a mistake in the name of the river? The name is not Vennar but Vanniyar."